

Case Management

# CM / ECF

Electronic Case Files

**Attorneys and CM/ECF**  
**U. S. Bankruptcy Court, NDNY**  
**08/12/2002**

Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) is the new automated case management and electronic docketing system for U. S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of New York. CM/ECF provides a new, easy-to-use electronic case filing feature that will make life easier for you by allowing you to file and view court documents over the Internet.

### What Does CM/ECF Offer?

CM/ECF will **allow attorneys to file and view documents from their office, home or anywhere they have access to the Internet, 24 hours a day.** Documents are automatically docketed as part of the filing process and are immediately available electronically. CM/ECF also provides the following benefits:

- 24-hour access to filed documents over the Internet
- Automatic email notice of case activity
- The ability to download and print documents directly from the court system
- Concurrent access to case files by multiple parties
- Secure storage of documents (so files are not misplaced)
- Potential reduction in courier fees

### What Do I Need to Use CM/ECF?

- A personal computer running a standard platform such as Windows or Macintosh

- Word processing software
- Internet access and a browser. The system has been certified with Netscape and is being tested with Internet Explorer
- Software to convert documents into PDF
- Scanning equipment may be useful

### How Does it Work?

The electronic case files system accepts documents in a portable document format (PDF). PDF retains the way a document looks, so the pages, fonts and other formatting are preserved. Filing a document with the court's CM/ECF system is quite easy:

- Create the document using word processing software.
- Save the document in PDF format.
- Log onto the court's CM/ECF system, using a court-issued login and password.
- Follow the set of simple prompts to provide information about the case, party and document to be filed.
- Attach the PDF document and submit it to the court for filing (by pressing a submit button).
- Save or print the CM/ECF electronic receipt e-mailed from the court confirming that the document was filed.

### Are There Fees?

There are **no added fees for filing documents over the Internet using**

CM/ECF; existing document filing fees do apply. Electronic access to court data is available through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) program. Attorneys and litigants receive one free copy of documents filed electronically in their cases; additional copies are available for viewing or downloading at seven cents per page. Directed by Congress to fund electronic access through user fees, the judiciary has set the fee at the lowest possible level sufficient to recoup program costs.

### **How will I Sign Documents?**

The court will issue logins and passwords. Using your login and password to file a document is considered to be your signature. Applications for a login and password will be available in the Fall, 2002 at our public counter or on our Internet site, **[www.nynb.uscourts.gov](http://www.nynb.uscourts.gov)**.

### **How Secure is CM/ECF?**

CM/ECF has many security features and has passed an evaluation by the National Security Agency. Access to the system is through a court issued login and password.

### **When is CM/ECF Coming to This Court?**

Our anticipated "live" date for CM/ECF is **January 1, 2003.**

### **What Kind of Training will be Provided?**

The Administrative Office of the U. S. Courts has developed computer based training

modules (CBT) that are available over the Internet. Our court will also be providing local classroom training for attorneys and their staffs.

### **Contact Information**

Information will be available on our Internet site, **[www.nynb.uscourts.gov](http://www.nynb.uscourts.gov)**. or by contacting:

General Information: Anne Sadlemire  
(518) 257-1619

Technical Information: Ann Marie Waters  
(518) 257-1635

U. S. Bankruptcy Court, NDNY, Public  
Counter Locations:

James T. Foley U. S. Court House  
Room 330  
445 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12207

and

Alexander Pirnie Court House & Federal  
Building  
Room 230  
10 Broad Street  
Utica, NY 13501